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**PATENT
AFTER FINAL
GROUP 2176
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant: BATES ET AL.

Application: METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR IDENTIFYING
HYPERTEXT LINKS IN DOCUMENT PRINTOUTS

Serial No.: 09/292,444

Filing Date: April 15, 1999

Art Unit: 2176

Examiner: Rachna Singh

Case: RO998-222

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APPLICANTS' REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed March 24, 2003, Applicants
reply to the argument raised by the Examiner as follows. For the reasons set forth in

the Brief on Appeal and below, it is submitted that the Board should reverse the final rejection of claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16-17.

The appeal brief at page 2, contains a statement under (2) **RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**, Applicants' attorney knows of no other appeals or interferences that would have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal.

In the Grounds of Rejection, at pages 3-7, for example, in Examiner's analysis of claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12-14, 16 and 17, the Examiner incorrectly indicates certain claimed subject matter is present in the prior art. The scope and content of the prior art is believed to be accurately described at pages 11-13 of Applicants' Brief on appeal.

Stork et al. teach the use of encoded, machine-readable information to enable hypertext documents to be created automatically, without user interaction. Kogan et al. teach the use of anchors together with the creation of intermediate tables that maintain information about relationships between regions of documents. Applicants respectfully submit that the Stork et al. and Kogan et al. references provide no reason nor suggestion that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to produce the claimed invention and do not render obvious the claimed invention.

The present invention, as recited in each of the independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 17, enables identifying hypertext links in document printouts. Each of the independent claims 1, 13 and 17 respective recite the step of or means, recorded on the recording medium, for sequentially checking printable objects to identify each printable object within a hypertext anchor tag; and rendering each identified printable

object within said hypertext anchor tag with a predefined indication of the hypertext link. Claim 10 recites a stored document data including each local hypertext link name and a page number for each said local hypertext link name; and a printing program utilizing said stored document data for printing a document including a predefined indication of each hypertext link within the document to be printed including a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) printed for each external hypertext link.

The subject matter of the independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 17 is not shown nor suggested in the references of record.

The cited Stork et al. and Kogan et al. references do not teach, suggest, nor provide any motivation for checking printable objects to identify each printable object within a hypertext anchor tag. The cited Stork et al. and Kogan et al. references do not teach, suggest, nor provide any motivation for rendering each identified printable object within said hypertext anchor tag with a predefined indication of the hypertext link; nor any suggestion or any means for printing a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) for each external hypertext link.

Only Applicants teach a computer implemented method and apparatus for identifying hypertext links in document printouts. Combining the total teachings of the cited Stork et al. and Kogan et al. references does not achieve nor suggest the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submits that the prior art provides no teaching, suggestion or inference to achieve the claimed invention as recited by the separately patentable claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, and 17.

For the reasons set forth here and in Applicant's Brief on appeal, it is submitted that claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16-17 are patentable and the final rejection of claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16-17 should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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